



# HISTORY OF BRIGHAM MURDOCH AND MARTHA LOUANNIE HAMMON



Martha Luann Hammon Murdoch was born October 11, 1885, in Hooper, Davis County, Utah. Her parents were Heber Chase Hammon and Martha Priscilla Christensen. She was the fourth of nine children, six boys and three girls. One girl and two boys died in infancy.

Her father, Heber Chase Hammon, was born March 18, 1854, in Uintah, Weber County, Utah, the eighth of fourteen born to Levi Hammon and Polly Chapman Bybee. There were ten girls and four boys. Two boys were stillborn and two girls died in early childhood.

Luann's mother was born February 28, 1858, in Ogden, Weber County, Utah. She was the oldest of nine children born to Rasmus Christensen, who came from Denmark, and Priscilla Victoria Mitchell, who came from England. They were both converts to the LDS Church and crossed the plains to Utah.

Heber had dark hair and blue eyes. Martha P. also had dark hair, but brown eyes. Both sides of the family had red hair and fair complexions. They were married January 28, 1877, at Hooper, Davis County, Utah. Heber was then twenty-four and Martha nineteen. The first year of their marriage, Martha taught school and Heber farmed with his parents.

Through hard work they eventually developed a comfortable home. They had an orchard, cattle, sheep, and bees. Martha carded the wool from their sheep for making quilts and spinning some of it into yarn for knitting stockings and other clothing for the entire family.

During the next eight years, four children were born. At that time, settlers were taking up land in the Snake River Valley in Idaho. The Indians were no longer a threat to the settlers, and homesteading laws permitted them to take up free land by claiming it and "proving up" on it. Heber and Martha and some of Heber's family decided to settle in the upper Snake River Valley in eastern Idaho. They left on October 11, 1886, for Wilford, Idaho, with all their possessions loaded on wagons. Luann was one year old the day they left. Her sister Laura's birthday on October 21 was also observed while on the journey. Although late in the season, they had a safe trip to Wilford.

Other settlers were in the Wilford area, and soon a thriving community was established with a church, school, store, and other services. There was a strong anti-Mormon element among the earlier settlers, who caused the name to be changed from Wilford to Berry. In time the bitterness subsided as some of the leaders moved out and the name Wilford was restored.

The first winter, Heber's family lived in a room of Uncle Reuben Belnap's home. When spring of 1887 came, Heber built a large log room where they lived the first summer. At first there was only a quilt for a door. Later Heber, with the help of relatives and friends, built a four-room house and used the original large room for a barn. This home was finished and the yard made beautiful with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Martha loved flowers and pretty things and took pride in keeping their home lovely with bright curtains and flowers in the windows. She was always clean and neat in everything she did.

Most of the settlers were LDS, and several of the families were related to Heber and Martha. The closeness of the community through the ward and the strong family ties provided a strong bond of security and trust. The depth of this friendship and love was tested often through sickness, accidents, deaths, storms, and discouragement.

The children were taught to love and respect each other and their parents and to honor their church leaders. As they became old enough, each child shared the household duties and helped with the outside chores. The Church was the central interest in the community. School was held when possible for three months in the winter and three months in the summer. As time went on, the schools were improved to regular terms.

Each family tried to be self-sufficient, so fruit trees, berries, gardens, meat, wool, and honey were produced on their place. As new land was broken up and seeded to crops, hay and grain were raised to feed a growing livestock population. Milk cows were a necessity to produce milk, butter, cheese, and meat. Travel was by horse-draw buggy or wagon, sleighs, saddle horses, or on foot.

Evenings were spent together with Martha knitting or sewing and Heber reading to the children from his favorite books, the Bible and Book of Mormon. Sometimes relatives and friends dropped in to share the warm hospitality always found in their home. Games were played, popcorn popped, and many happy evenings created. This taught the children to love their home.

Some of the local businesses were owned by relatives of the couple. Uncle George Davis and Uncle Reugen Belnap were bishops of the ward at different times. Uncle Heber Mitchell and his family from Salt Lake opened a store and hardware department. Tom Birch owned a store and the post office. Uncle Henry Mitchell owned the blacksmith shop and hired Heber to help him at busy times. Heber was very good at shoeing horses, one of the main services the blacksmiths performed at that time. The children were thrilled to be able to pump the bellows to keep the fire hot.

Martha's many talents were in demand, and she was willing to share them even though her ever-growing family required much love and care. She was called often to care for the sick. She was an excellent seamstress, and made the clothes for the family, including shirts for the men. She was often called on to sew burial clothes because of her beautiful work. Horse blankets were also a product of her skill.

On one occasion, Heber, together with some of his uncles, and Daniel, Luann's older brother, went to the timber to get wood. Because of the distance, it was necessary to stay overnight. During the night, Heber became very sick and kept getting worse. So they unloaded the wood and made a bed for Heber on the wagon and started home with him. They thought he was going to die, and from time to time would stop and pray for him. Daniel, walking behind the wagon, kept praying too. Heber recovered, much to everyone's relief.

Since medical doctors were scarce during that time, most sickness was treated at home by family members and kindly neighbors. Families helped each other and relied upon the elders to administer to the sick. Heber was called often to administer to the sick, and one of his frequent companions was a Brother Dayton who had been a bodyguard to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Martha was called often to attend the sick, and sometimes this extended into days. On those occasions Laura, Luann's older sister, took over with the household duties.

In the early 1890s Heber's cousin, Milton Andrus, came and homesteaded a place in Hog Hollow or East Wilford. He persuaded Heber to homestead a farm next to his. Milton's buildings were on the bank of the Teton River, and Heber's farm was half a mile away. In 1893 or 1894, Heber moved his family to the new homestead and built a new home. The family worked hard to clear the brush, make fences, and put the land into cultivation. Again new trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted along with an orchard and garden. The children were now all old enough to help. They did chores, herded cattle, and helped build brush fences. They had lots of happy experiences together, and also some that were very sad.

While planting the shrubs about the new home, Luann asked her father if she could have a flower garden of her own. He gave her a little plot of ground, a yellow rose bush, a lilac bush, and a clump of dwarf iris. Luann cared for and watered these flowers until she married and took starts of them with her to her new home. This was the beginning of a love for flowers that was to bring her much joy throughout her life. She shared this joy with many others.

In their new community of East Wilford, Heber and Martha had good friendly neighbors. The couple worked hard on the farm and held positions in the ward. Martha was secretary in the Relief Society and president in the Primary. She traveled with a one-horse cart to meetings, often taking Aunty Worrell with her, the children sitting on the floor of the cart.

Luann was baptized August 7, 1904, in the old Wilford Canal by Elder George Pincock, who was later bishop of the ward. She was confirmed by a Brother Moore. The children drove to East Wilford School for three months in the winter and sometimes to three months of summer school.

In the late summer, 1895, Martha's father, Rasmus Christensen, came from Hooper to visit them. Martha's sister Sarah and her husband, Joe Phillips, from Preston, came with him. Grandfather Christensen traveled through Yellowstone Park during the visit.

Heber was busy with the farm work and hauling hay from Wilford while the visitors were there, and he was not able to visit much with them, nor go through the Park with them. On Sunday, Heber was to go to Rexburg to a seventy's meeting, as he was now a seventy. Since he had not had an opportunity to visit much with his brother-in-law, Joe Phillips, he decided to spend Sunday with the visitors instead of going to Rexburg, since Joe had to return to Preston the next day. They went fishing in the Teton River, one of the choice fishing streams in Idaho. They were fishing in Buckman's Bottoms, where there were some deep pools. They were fishing on horseback when Heber's fishing line got tangled up with his horse's legs, and both horse and Heber were plunged into the current, where Heber drowned. It was about ten o'clock in the morning when he drowned, and his body was recovered about three o'clock in the afternoon. The date was August 3, 1895.

Martha was not notified until his body was found. Martha was in poor health and was expecting a baby in early October. Sister Laura was fifteen years old and sick with Saint Vitus dance. The day Heber drowned, he received a call to go on a foreign mission for the Church. It was a poor time to lose a dear husband and father.

Heber Levi was now seventeen, Laura Priscilla was fifteen, Daniel Rasmus was twelve, Martha Luann age ten. Christina had died May 1, 1888, when eleven days old. Delbert Chase was age six. George David had died July, 1892, when eight days old. Wallace Reuben had died at birth August 1, 1893, and Marion Bryam was born October 2, 1895. The family was not a stranger to sickness, death, and sorrow. Grandfather Levi Hammon had died November 8, 1894.

Heber, Jr., responded well to his great responsibilities. He worked hard on the farm with the help of the younger children. The neighbors were sympathetic and helpful, but there was little financial help, something they needed so much. Marion, the baby, was a great comfort to Martha and a joy to the rest of the family.

Kenny Worrell and his wife were near neighbors and close friends to the Hammons. Mrs. Worrell had woven many carpets for people in the community. Her health was poor, and the couple offered the loom to Martha and agreed to teach her how to weave carpets. With her experience in spinning and knitting with wool, Martha was a quick learner, and she was able to earn money by weaving carpets. It was hard work; Laura learned to help her. Luann helped by winding the paddles.

The family always had a big garden, and they usually had an acre of onions for sale. The children helped in the garden and in other ways. Luann helped milk the cows and helped with the chores. She also learned to weave the carpets and help when needed.

Martha was called often to help the sick. She always put her Church work first. She was a strict tithe payer and helped regularly with the missionary fund. She was warm and very loving to her children and set a good example for them. She was firm in the discipline in the home.

Laura attended the Preston Academy for a year. She was the first of the children to marry. On April 27, 1898, she became the wife of Melvin Allred of Spring City, Utah. They were married in the home in East Wilford by Justice of the Peace James Denton, an old friend of the family. They lived with Martha the first summer, then moved to Teton Basin.

Heber was the next to marry. His bride was a lovely girl named Sarah Ann Waters. They wed on June 12, 1902, at Elacefoot, Bigham County, Idaho. They lived with Martha part of the first year they were married. Heber herded sheep and bought forty acres of land, and they moved to their own home.

During the next few years, the family was plagued with measles, typhoid fever, and other sickness, leaving some of them near death. The first grandchild was born October 21, 1899, to Laura and Melvin, and was named Ina. Melvin got typhoid fever and nearly died. Then Ina also had the pneumonia and died on December 9. Luann nearly died also, but with prayers, good nursing, and a good doctor, she finally got well.

The summer Heber and Sarah lived with Martha, Luann was sixteen years old. She accompanied Sarah to the sheep camp occasionally to visit Heber. They went with a team and a wagon, usually taking a picnic. Sometimes they stayed overnight, camping out. They enjoyed the stars, the night sounds, and the bleating of the sheep.

One of their neighbors was a trapper and scout named Richard Leigh, better known as Beaver Dick. They lived about two miles above the Hammons on the Teton River. He married an Indian woman, and their three children went to school at East Wilford. The neighbors used to visit with the Leigh's and take them food and supplies, also helping in other ways, as they were rather poor. One day Mrs. Leigh took Luann up to Buckman's Bottoms on the Teton River and showed her the pool where her father had drowned several years before. Luann had never been there before, and she shuddered with fright at the green water swirling around the large whirlpools.

By this time Laura and Melvin had bought a home and land near the Teton River Bridge. Their home was a gathering place for young people for parties, boat rides, and fun. Laura had two bachelor boarders named George and Albert Brown. They used to tease Luann and other girls about the boys. They kept telling her they knew a man named Brig Murdoch she ought to meet. They told her how nice Brig was, and said he had been married and that his wife had died and left him with a little boy. They brought this up every time they saw Luann.

Finally, Luann saw the Murdoch brothers, Brig and Tom, at Teton City on the Twenty-fourth of July. They played for a dance there, but Luann did not meet them. She often wondered what kind of a fellow Brig was. In late August, Luann was visiting at Laura's, and Albert Brown and his two Murdoch friends were there. Luann was introduced to them. She was impressed with Brig. He was of medium height with dark brown hair and eyes. The brothers sang songs for them. She thought he was a swell fellow, but thought she was too young for him.

As the summer passed, several young men visited the Hammon home and took Luann to parties and dances and buggy rides. At Thanksgiving time, their ward had a dance at Twin

Groves, and the Murdoch brothers played for it. Thus they met again. Brig danced with her several times and took her home from the dance. He told her about his wife and little son, Rue. It made her like and respect him more and more. He continued to come to their home to visit and showed her Rue's picture. Luann loved the little fellow from the start.

At Christmas time, Brig returned to Heber to be with his family and Rue for the holidays and to return to work in Park City until spring, when he would return to the farm. Before Brig left for Heber City, he and Luann had decided they would be married in the Salt Lake Temple before he returned to Farnum.

For Luann it was a long, lonesome winter in some ways. Her brother Daniel was her escort to the dances and entertainment. He was very considerate of her. Sister Laura and Melvin were then living in St. Anthony and were expecting their second baby. Luann visited them occasionally, and Laura helped her make quilt blocks. Luann was kept busy helping her mother and making quilts for herself and working on her clothes.

Late in the winter, Brig wrote a nice letter to Luann's mother telling her of their plans to be married. He asked her consent to marry Luann, which made Martha very happy, especially since they would be married in the temple. Luann would be the first of Martha's children to be married in the temple.

On April 2, 1903, Luann and her mother boarded the afternoon train at St. Anthony. It was Luann's first train ride since she was a small girl. They enjoyed the ride to Kaysville, Utah, where they stayed overnight with Martha's sister, Aunt Libby Lewis. They also visited another sister, Aunt Chessie.

The next day they went to Salt Lake City, where Brig met the train. It was nice to be with him again. They spent the day going to general conference. The following morning they boarded the train with Brig to go with him to Heber City, where they would visit his family. It was her first ride up Provo Canyon. A snowslide had covered the tracks with snow, ice, rocks, and trees, and had to be blasted out before the train could get through.

At the depot in Heber, they were met by Tom and their sister Tressie, who had visited with the brothers in Idaho and met Luann then. Others were on the platform too, but the first one Luann saw was an excited ten-year-old boy who had been anxiously waiting for them to get off the train. Rue jumped and threw his arms around her, and she knew they would always love each other and get along beautifully as mother and son.

Brig's mother, Isabella, had been very sick that winter, and it took a special effort for her to be able to sit up in her chair to receive Brig's girl." As Luann and her mother entered the home, a strange feeling came over her. There was Brig's father, John Murray Murdoch, his first wife Anne (Muz), and Brig's mother, Isabella (Bella) sitting there waiting for them. Here were three special people who had given up so much, endured great hardships, sickness, and death in return for their membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the hope for an eternal family.

After the introductions, Luann felt at ease. They were received very warmly by all Brig's family as they came in a few at a time during the two-day visit. Luann described Isabella as a sweet, gracious lady everyone could love. This was the beginning of an association that, through the years, would bring much love and joy into the lives of Luann, Brig, and his family.

John Murray was Wasatch Stake patriarch, and he asked Luann if he could give her a patriarchal blessing. It made her very happy to receive it. It was a beautiful blessing and also was to be a source of strength and comfort to her throughout her life.



As Brig and Luann prepared to return to Salt Lake to be married, a deep sense of sadness came over the family. Tom was going with them. The family realized that now the boys were leaving Heber for good, and the family link would be broken again. They would join their sister Margaret Hawkes in eastern Idaho.

Wednesday morning, April 8, was a beautiful morning Brig and Luann went to the courthouse for their marriage license. Tom helped Luann's mother to the temple with their suitcases. Then Tom went on to Idaho to get their cattle out on the range.

Martha's cousin, Margaret Cain, was a temple worker. She helped them get ready and then came back at three o'clock to see them married. Afterwards the newlyweds and Martha went to Margaret's home for a party with Martha's relatives who had gathered to wish them well. The next day they went to Kaysville and visited Martha's sister Chessie and other relatives around Layton, Hooper, and Clearfield.

They returned home to Wilford on April 15. Heber was plowing that day for the first time. He farmed Martha's farm that year. They went over to Teton, a few miles south, to visit Margaret and Lewis Hawkes and their children. While there they met William and Teldie Baird, who were lifelong friends of the Murdoch family. Will's mother and Brig's mother had been close friends in Bonnie Scotland. The Baird children called Brig and Luann "uncle and aunt."

The full impact of the exciting events of the previous nineteen days came upon Luann as she and Brig left her mother's home to travel to their own home at Farnum on April 21. Again there was sadness with the separation from her mother and brothers and sisters. The agony and the ecstasy of the separation from their families and the fulfillment of their marriage in the holy temple for time and eternity deeply touched the emotions of Luann, as she was the first of her mother's family to be married in the temple. The wonderful trip and visit with Brig's family and her mother's family in Utah, together with their temple marriage, filled her with great joy and humility.

They loaded their belongings on the wagon and started for their new home. When about five miles from home it started raining. Brig had a large slicker. He put one sleeve on Luann and the other on himself and covered them both with it. They saw a horseman coming; it was Luann's brother Heber. When they arrived at their new home, Tom had dinner prepared. After dinner they moved everything out of the cabin and cleaned it from top to bottom. They then put the furniture back in. Brig helped around the house two or three days to get things organized. They sewed factory (light cloth) together and attached it to the log walls and ceiling. It looked very nice. They thought they had a fine home for beginners.

The grass was green, the wildflowers were blooming, and it was a beautiful time of the year. Luann planted flowers and shrubs and fruit bushes she had brought from her mother's place. They planted a garden. The grain was planted and doing well, when a hard frost set it back.

About this time, a wedding dance was held, and the newlyweds were happy to see their neighbors, friends, and Luann's folks present. Her mother, Dan, and Sarah came, as also did Brig's sister Margaret and husband Lewis Hawkes.

When the crops were in, the settlers turned their attention to the canal work, which reached an important phase that year (1903). The main canal was finished, and now the various laterals to the stockholders' farms had to be completed. Brig and Luann, together with other homesteaders, camped near where the canal work was going on. Luann and other wives helped cook for the men and helped out whenever possible. Evenings were spent in socializing, singing, visiting, and planning their community. Brig and Tom were often the entertainment with their guitar and violin.

Luann's mother gave them a milk cow and, later, chickens. This combination provided Luann with the materials for custards and puddings, an enjoyable addition to the bachelor fare the three "boys" had been used to.

Tom continued to live with Brig and Luann, and Hans Nielson, the Danish man, continued to eat with them frequently. Luann did their cooking, washing, and mending. Each man worked on his own farm, but some of their work was done with the help of the others. So, the newlywed's first family consisted of four individuals. This increased to five when Rue joined them on September 15. Thirty-eight years later, Luann commented that she and Brig had never spent a night alone in their home, that "someone has always been with us."

The Farnum area is a mile high and subject to late and early frosts. By trial and error, the settlers learned which varieties of crops and garden plants would grow well there. Grain and hay became the main crops. Oats and barley did well, as did some varieties of wheat, but later maturing wheat varieties were not dependable.

Their first garden was good, as were their grain crops. Some of their farm land, sixty-five acres, was on top of the hill; the rest was on the hillside and on the flat bordered by Fall River. The grain was cut with a binder, and the bundles were stacked under the hill near the house and corrals, awaiting the arrival of the threshing machine. The road down the hill to the buildings was rather steep and rocky, and no one would venture down the hill with a threshing machine for fear of tipping over.

Finally, on December 2, Cutler's threshing machine from Vernon crossed the river from the west and threshed their crop. Normally there would have been deep snow on the ground, but that year the weather was dry and farmers were plowing in December.

Earlier that fall, Rue had come to live with them, on September 15. Brig met him at Thornton. Rue had come that far with Aunt Mary Murdoch, who had come to visit with her sister. After that, it was not so lonesome for Luann when the men were working away hauling wood for buildings or for fuel.

Luann enjoyed going outside and sitting on a log and crocheting while the men were building the grainery. She was making lace to be used on dresses she was planning to make for the baby they were expecting in February.

That Christmas Brig, Luann, and Rue had a good time by themselves. Rue found a Christmas tree on the farm. They made their own decorations for it. Paper chains, paper flowers and popcorn chains were the decorations they had, but it was beautiful to behold. Christmas day was clear and bright. Luann's mother, sister Laura, and husband Melvin came for dinner.

Luann had not been feeling well, and it was decided that she would return with Martha and stay until after the baby was born. Sometimes Rue would be with Luann at her mother's. Occasionally Brig would visit them for a few days. She was still homesick for them.

Blanche Priscilla was born February 7, 1904, at Wilford. Her name was decided before she was born. She was named after Blanche Alexander, Brig's first wife, and Luann's mother. Her arrival brought joy to all the family, especially Rue, who was delighted to have a baby sister.

Luann was quite sick for several weeks but was well enough to move back to their home on April 21, a year to the day since they had arrived after their marriage. Brig had set a hen and had baby chicks running around when they arrived.

On March 9, Brig's sister, Margaret Ann, died, leaving a baby girl two or three days old and five older children. They were still living at Teton. Brig's sister Nettie and

his brothers Jim and Jock came from Heber to attend the funeral. They visited Luann at her mother's home and then went to the farm with Brig and Tom for a visit. They all slept in one long bed.

As the community became settled, fences and roads were established. The canal work was eventually completed, and the settlers had more choice in locating their permanent buildings as domestic water was available through the ditches. The location of their home "under the hill" was nearly half mile from the county road that led northeast to the store and post office and south to the new school. The wind and snow in the winter made traveling out to the road difficult.

They decided to build a new home out on the road closer to community services. The canal water would come to their house in the summer; but water would have to be hauled in the winter. Luann sold the cow her mother had given them and bought lumber for the house. Hans Nielsen, Tom, and Brig built a two-room frame home with an attic. It had a shingled roof; this was the first time Luann had lived in a home without a dirt roof. This meant no more throwing dirt up on the roof during a rainstorm to keep it from leaking.

New fences, corrals, and sheds had to be built in the new location. In the spring and summer the land had to be prepared, planted, and irrigated. Brig and Tom were still breaking up sod to bring more land into production.

In 1905 Brig was called to be first counselor to James W. Green, president of Conant Branch, later called the Farnum Branch of the Church. Meetings were held in a log building also used as a school. It was located a couple of miles east of their home, between the James Whitmore and Simeon Saunder's places. It was built about 1899.

In 1904 Brig was elected as director of the Conant Creek Canal Company, and at various times was also secretary or president of the company until 1937.

Luann was called as second counselor to Sister Emily Ferrin, who was president of the Relief Society.

Brig and Tom, with their guitar and violin, played for dances in the different communities--Farnum, Squirrel, Marysville, Ashton, Chester, and Drummond, usually in a church or schoolhouse. Sometimes the dances lasted all night with a midnight break for refreshments. In the winter, travel to the dances was sometimes cold and difficult.

On June 4, 1907, their first son was born at home with Dr. E.L. Hargis in charge. He was a healthy, happy baby and was given lots of love and attention by the family and was named Brigham Dallas.

In December, 1907, Tom received a call to the Central States Mission at Dallas, Texas. He accepted and traveled without purse or scrip. He had many faith-promoting experiences. He was released two years later in time to attend his mother's funeral in December, 1909.

Tom returned to his farm at Farnum and continued to live with Brig and Luann. He loved children and delighted them with his stories and magic tricks, and especially with his ever-present stick of licorice, which he shared with them by cutting off thin slices with his sharp knife.

On October 31, 1909, a very severe blizzard struck. During the blizzard, Hans Nielsen's horses broke into the stackyard, where grain was piled in sacks. Brig got on Prince their favorite horse, to drive the horses out. A buckskin mare kicked Brig on the ankle, breaking the bones. He finally got into the house, pale and sick. Luann got him on the bed and braved the storm to intercept Dr. Hargis at the cross-roads near the store. He was on his way to see Will Crazier, who was very sick.

Dr. Hargis, with Luann's help, made splints and set the broken ankle. Blanche was very frightened. That night Bishop Henry Smith and Simeon Saunders came and spent the evening to help cheer Brig up. The next day a neighbor,



George Oberhansley, came and cleaned snow and ice out of the ditch so the Murdoch's could get water, as there was no well. Martha and Delbert, Luann's younger brother, came up and stayed with them to do chores until Rue could get home. He was in Heber City attending high school.

The snow went off, and Rue did some fall plowing while waiting for Brig to get around. After two weeks, Dr. Hargis put Brig's ankle in a cast; then he could get around on crutches.

On November 17, 1909, a second son was born. He was named Reed Chase. Following his birth, Luann got the flu and was sick for a long time. Her mother came up to take care of her. During this time, Tom returned from his mission in Texas. He and Brig administered to her. That night she had the first good night's sleep she had had in a long time. She began to feel better. They were happy Tom could be with them again.

The Farnum community was now well established with a store and post office, combined, located on the east bank of the Fall River near the crossing (ford) the settlers used to travel from Marysville or Ashton to the Farnum, Lillian, and Drummond areas. A bridge was soon built at that spot.

In 1909, a new church was built to replace the original log building used for both a school and branch meeting-house. The new church was located about two miles southeast of the store. The same year, a new one-room brick schoolhouse was built about two miles south and a little west of the store. It was located one mile west of the church. The new school was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Brig's home and less than half a mile from Tom's home site. In 1911, another room was added. The first room provided classes from first through fourth grade. The new room had classes fifth through eighth grade. It was Fremont School District N. 64. A teacher's cottage was built later.

Brig was trustee, secretary, or chairman of the school board throughout the years they lived in Farnum. He enjoyed his positions in the Church and school and the other public services he was asked to perform. He was very conscientious about meeting his responsibilities.

The new church had cost the branch around seven thousand dollars, and the members were having trouble paying for it. In addition, they were helping to pay for the Yellowstone Stake Tabernacle in St. Anthony and the Rick's Academy at Rexburg, a Church school.

In order to meet these obligations, the members rented some land from Alma Blanchard, J.W. Green, and Henry Smith. Nearly everyone in the community turned out to help with the work, members and non-members alike. At times there were as many as forty outfits working during the cropping season. The crops were good and so were the prices. In two years the debts were paid off and there were surplus funds. There was also a stronger, more dedicated community, proud of their success.

On May 6, 1910, the Murdoch family was again saddened, this time by the death of their beloved father and patriarch, John Murray. With the death of his first wife, Ann Steele, the previous December, the family sensed a deep loss of this noble couple who had given up so much and served so many so well. John would have been ninety years old on December 28.

Mother Isabella was in failing health and went to live with her daughter Katherine Hicken, where she received much love and good care for six more years.

On January 22, 1911, Brig was set apart as the second counselor to Bishop Henry Smith, as Farnum now had a Ward. Luann was active in the Relief Society and the Primary. Blanche was now seven years old and attending school.

As their farms were improved and more crops could be grown, Brig and Tom were able to add to their buildings, equipment, and livestock, and complete their fencing. They also brought more of their land under irrigation. Brig bought eighty acres that joined his homestead on the east. The

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In 1909, a new church was built to replace the original log building used for both a school and branch meeting-house. The new church was located about two miles southeast of the store. The same year, a new one-room brick schoolhouse was built about two miles south and a little west of the store. It was located one mile west of the church. The new school was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Brig's home and less than half a mile from Tom's home site. In 1911, another room was added. The first room provided classes from first through fourth grade. The new room had classes fifth through eighth grade. It was Fremont School District N. 64. A teacher's cottage was built later.

Brig was trustee, secretary, or chairman of the school board throughout the years they lived in Farnum. He enjoyed his positions in the Church and school and the other public services he was asked to perform. He was very conscientious about meeting his responsibilities.

The new church had cost the branch around seven thousand dollars, and the members were having trouble paying for it. In addition, they were helping to pay for the Yellowstone Stake Tabernacle in St. Anthony and the Rick's Academy at Rexburg, a Church school.

In order to meet these obligations, the members rented some land from Alma Blanchard, J.W. Green, and Henry Smith. Nearly everyone in the community turned out to help with the work, members and non-members alike. At times there were as many as forty outfits working during the cropping season. The crops were good and so were the prices. In two years the debts were paid off and there were surplus funds. There was also a stronger, more dedicated community, proud of their success.

On May 6, 1910, the Murdoch family was again saddened, this time by the death of their beloved father and patriarch, John Murray. With the death of his first wife, Ann Steele, the previous December, the family sensed a deep loss of this noble couple who had given up so much and served so many so well. John would have been ninety years old on December 28.

Mother Isabella was in failing health and went to live with her daughter Katherine Hicken, where she received much love and good care for six more years.

On January 22, 1911, Brig was set apart as the second counselor to Bishop Henry Smith, as Farnum now had a Ward. Luann was active in the Relief Society and the Primary. Blanche was now seven years old and attending school.

As their farms were improved and more crops could be grown, Brig and Tom were able to add to their buildings, equipment, and livestock, and complete their fencing. They also brought more of their land under irrigation. Brig bought eighty acres that joined his homestead on the east. The

canal ran through the entire length of it. The north half was watered and the south half was dry farmed. To help with the added work, Rue helped during the summers between high school terms at Heber City. Luann's younger brother Marion worked there, also. He was three years younger than Rue.

All of the farming was done with horses. Brig and Tom took good care of their farm animals. They were all fed and were rested frequently when doing hard work. Brig and Tom were careful to prevent the horses from getting sore shoulders by keeping the collars clean, the tugs even length, and the harnesses properly adjusted. In order to improve their horses, Brig bought a registered Percheron stallion to breed their own mares. He also sold the stallion's services by going to the farms in the area to breed the mares. This was a profitable investment and, as the years went by, produced many excellent horses. After three or four years, Brig would bring in a new stallion to breed the younger mares.

It became necessary to add onto the house to accommodate the growing family. Two rooms were built on the north side of the house with a front and back door. Stairs were built outside going up to the attic, where two more bedrooms were finished. The new rooms were very welcome, as there was Tom and three children besides Rue and Marion in the summer.

Relatives and friends visited them from time to time and often stayed several days at a time. They were always warmly welcomed by Brig and Luann. Lewis Hawkes and his five children were frequent Sunday visitors, as were his neighbors Will and Tildie Baird and children. The Murdoch's also visited at their homes. In the summers, the families got together to pick wild berries along the hillsides of Fall River Canyon.

The berry bushes planted in the first garden on the flat were still producing. Some of the apple trees were also bearing fruit. Brig kept the old garden fenced and irrigated. Many family picnics were enjoyed on the flat under the big shade trees they had planted near the old log house.

In the fall of 1911, the threshers were threshing on the east eighty about a quarter of a mile from the house. Dallas, then four and a half years old, and Reed, two and a half, found some tobacco and matches in a transient worker's buggy. Dallas climbed up in the loft of the log bar, where the hired hands slept at night, and tried to make a cigarette and light it. The match fell into the straw of the loft, which started to burn. After throwing some loose articles at the fire, trying to put it out, Dallas climbed back down the ladder to the ground. He and Reed were standing in the open barn door when Luann looked out and saw the roof of the barn in flames. She rushed out and grabbed the boys and hustled them away from the barn to the house.

The thresher men saw the fire and rushed down to try to put it out. No one thought of bringing the water wagon down to pump water on the fire. By the time someone went back for it the barn was all aflame, and beautiful, large haystack near the barn was on fire. The men carried water in pails and dish pans from the ditch in front of the house to throw on the newly built grainery, full of grain, to keep it from catching fire. Four horses and some calves and pigs in the barn were finally driven out. The horses had to be blindfolded before they would come out. Some harnesses, saddles, and tools were burned. All the hay, some straw, most of the corrals, and some sheds also burned. When the water wagon finally came down, it was used to pump water on the roof and walls of the house to keep it from catching fire from the flying sparks. This was quite a financial blow to Brig and Luann, and a memorable lesson to young Dallas.

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Laura Jean was born to Brig and Luann June 25, 1914. She had dark hair and eyes. This brought the family to three boys and two girls. Jean was a joy to the family, always pleasant and sweet.

World War I started in August, 1914, and its shadow reached out to the United States. More food and supplies were needed from America, and farm prices began to improve.

During 1914, Tom was called on a short-term mission to Kansas City, Missouri, the mission headquarters. He returned to the farm and continued to live with Brig and Luann. She would tease him about being an old bachelor. He would reply, "I will yet live to hold my grandchildren on my knee."

On July 4, 1915, Luann's mother passed away after several years of failing health. She had sold their farm and moved to St. Anthony several years before. At the time of her death, she was Relief Society president. The funeral was held in the Yellowstone Stake Tabernacle. She was fifty-seven. Marion, the youngest son, worked for Brig some of the time and for his older brothers Heber and Daniel, who had homesteaded in the Ozone area southeast of Idaho Falls. Laura and Melvin now lived in Pocatello.

Uncle Tom was Farnum's most eligible bachelor. While older than most unmarried girls in the area, he was popular with them. He was always pleasant to be with. He was humble and set a good example to young and old alike. He had a well-matched driving team with light harness and a flashy one-seated buggy. His driving outfit would compare with the sports car of today.

On July 15, 1915, Tom and Sarah Hansen were married in the Salt Lake Temple for time and eternity. She was twenty years old; he was forty-seven. They had met two years earlier when she had come to Farnum and spent the summer with her Uncle Hans Nielsen, a close friend and neighbor to the Murdoch's. She had come from Denmark as a child, and her parents had settled in Utah. She was a pretty girl--ambitious, full of fun, and a source of joy and strength to the Murdoch family.

Uncle Tom had moved the two-room frame granary from his lower forty to a location up on the hill about a quarter of a mile from the Farnum School on the main road. He added a two-room lean-to, making it an attractive, comfortable home. He built straw sheds and corrals, dug a cistern, and had things well organized for operating his 160-acre farm.

The two families were very close and harmonious in all their activities. They worked together, socialized together, and worshiped together. They often ate together, had family evenings together, and were usually together at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and many other occasions.

On April 10, 1916, Brig's mother died. Brig and Tom went to the funeral in Heber City. She was buried in the Heber Cemetery beside her husband, John Murray, and his first wife, Ann Steele. John had provided well for Bella, although she was not recognized as his legal wife. He had also provided for the equal distribution of his estate, which gave each of his living children about nine hundred dollars, a substantial amount at that time.

It was hard to realize that now Brig and Luann were alone in the world without either parent they had loved so much. They were comforted by the knowledge they would be reunited again in the future and were grateful for the blessing of having been born to such choice parents under the covenant.

In 1916, the United States entered into World War I following the cowardly sinking of the great passenger ship the Lusitania by a German submarine. The tempo of the war quickened as U.S. servicemen went overseas and U.S. industry was turned into a great war machine. Farmers were hard put to do their farming as their young men entered the service.



very hard, too. During a bishop's meeting held in their home, Tom was blessed by Alfred Woodland, one of the bishopric. He had also blessed Dallas and Reed. The family feared that the baby might not survive until a regular fast meeting was held.

During the summer of 1912, Percy McMullin, a son of Janet Osborn Murdoch and Henry L. McMullin, stayed with them. He was a cousin to Brig and Tom. They had many good times together. One of those good times included a trip through Yellowstone Park. Brig, Tom, and Percy traveled in a buckboard with a team and extra saddle horse. Their food and cooking utensils were kept in a heavy grub box made of one-inch lumber and reinforced with iron bands and heavy hinges and a lock. At one camp after supper, the men took a stroll, and when they returned a large bear was in their tent trying to get into the grub box. It was so strong it batted the box around like a toy, biting it and clawing it, trying to tear it open. They tried to distract it by throwing things at it, shouting, and even waving lighted sticks at it. It finally left after nearly wrecking their camp.

Tom usually wore leather chaps when he was riding to protect him from brush and cold. He had a pair with long black hair on the outside. One night, while in the park, he put them on and pretended to be a bear as he crawled alongside Percy who was asleep in bed. Percy was properly scared, but so was Tom when he discovered he was next to a live bear outside the tent that moved and growled when Tom crawled between Percy and the bear. The exciting events of that trip provided stories for a long time.

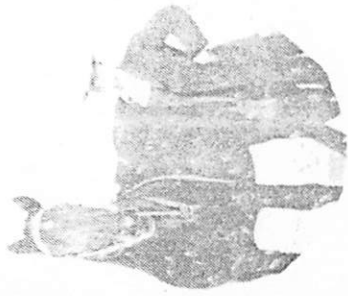
With a good harvest safely put away, the family settled down to a long winter. At this point, Brig and Luann were reminded that their children had never seen their Murdoch grandparents. With Grandmother Bella the only one left, they decided to visit her for Christmas that year at Heber. They went by train and were accompanied by Isabella Hawkes, their cousin. Rue stayed home to do the chores while they were gone. It was Luann's first visit back to Heber since their marriage. The train trip was very cold in below-zero weather, and the train was late getting into Salt Lake City. But the children took it in stride, being very excited about it all.

Grandmother Bella was delighted to see them, and they were warmly welcomed by the Murdoch Clan. The children got acquainted with uncles and aunts and cousins they had never seen. They had a delightful Christmas and enjoyed several parties and visits with the numerous Murdoch families in Heber. While in Salt Lake City, they took in some of the sights with the three older children strutting ahead confidently in their new clothes, by now being experienced travelers.

In November, 1913, Brig was called to be bishop of the Farnum Ward. He was set apart as bishop on February 1, 1914, by Apostle Hyrum G. Smith. He had been counselor to Bishop Smith since January 22, 1911. His counselors were Iver Henderickson and Daniel Gibson.

On December 24, 1913, Rue was married to Mearl Garrett, a very lovely girl whose family lived across the Fall River from home. They lived in the upstairs of the Murdoch home the first winter. The summer of 1914, Rue farmed Uncle Tom's lower forty and lived in a new frame granary Tom had built. It was located back in the field of Uncle Tom's lower forty.

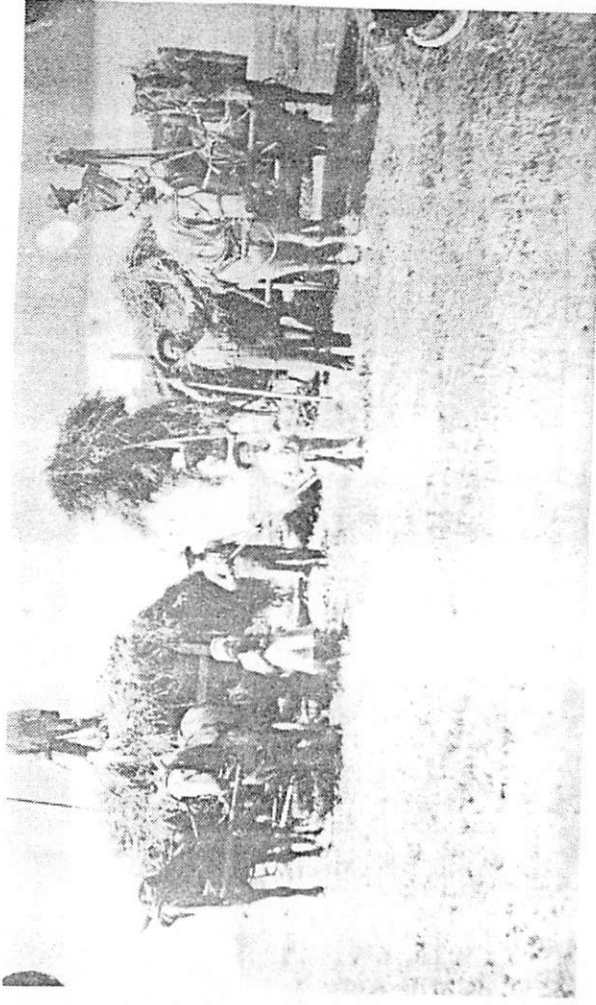
Rue had enough money to go to auto mechanics school in Kansas City. Mearl's brother, Earl Garret, went with him. They finished the course in a few months and returned home. Rue soon secured a job with the U.S. Reclamation Service and located on King Hill, Idaho, where they were building a dam. When the dam was finished, they moved to Emmett and worked on the Black Canyon Dam; then they went to Yakima, Washington.



BRIGHAM MURDOCH &  
HORSE-PEDRO

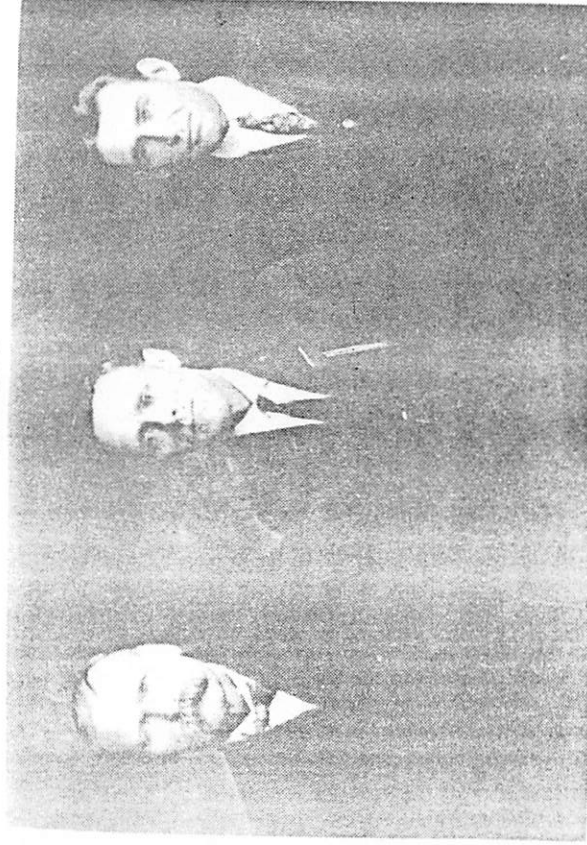


BRIGHAM MURDOCH ON MOWER



BRIGHAM MURDOCH, FAMILY & FRIENDS HAULING HAY

### BISHOPRIC



LEFT TO RIGHT: IVER HENDRICKSON, BISHOP-BRIGHAM MURDOCH  
AND DANIEL GIBSON



BRIGHAM MURDOCH &  
HORSE-PEDRO

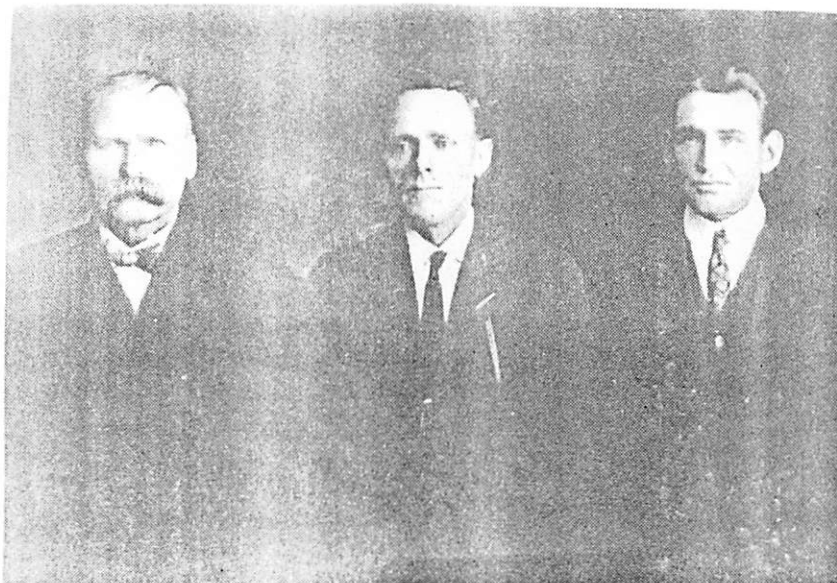


BRIGHAM MURDOCH ON MOWER



BRIGHAM MURDOCH, FAMILY & FRIENDS HAULING HAY

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BRIGHAM MURDOCH



BRIGHAM DALLAS & BLANCHE MURDOCH



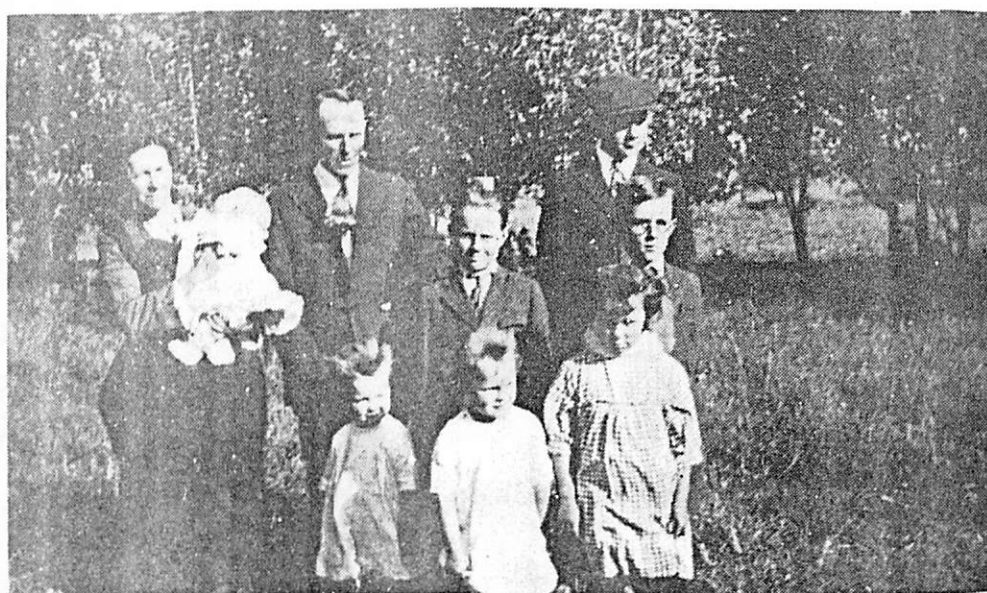
LOUANNIE HAMMON  
AGE 16



BRIGHAM MURDOCH  
AGE 14



BRIGHAM MURDOCH



BACK: LOUANNIE, BRIGHAM, AND BRIGHAM DALLAS MURDOCH  
MIDDLE: HOWARD, REED, & TOM MURDOCH  
FRONT: MARTHA, TRESSA, & JEAN MURDOCH

The United States became the food basket for the Allies. Europe's farming was disrupted by war, and food had to be shipped in from America.

On the home front, sugar was rationed. To get a sack of flour one had to take an equal amount of cornmeal or potato flour as a substitute for wheat flour. Most prices got higher and commodities became more scarce. Everyone worked harder to support the war effort. The Relief Society sisters knitted woolen sweaters, socks, and other items for the Red Cross to distribute to the soldiers. It was a regular evening activity for the Murdoch family to be knitting. The older children would knit socks after Luann had started them out. She would finish up the foot of the socks, which were more difficult to knit.

Rue was of the age to be drafted, but he was married and in a war-essential occupation, so he was exempted. However, Marion, Luann's younger brother, was called. Also called were two of her cousins, Delos and Levi Hammon, sons of her Uncle Daunt Hammon. Dr. E.L. Hargis, the only in Ashton, was drafted, leaving the community without a doctor.

Brig was very busy during the war years. The ward was growing and took lots of his time as a bishop. He conducted many funerals and some marriages. During 1918 the Spanish influenza swept through the country. Many people were sick, and deaths were very common. Emergency law banned gatherings such as schools, church meetings, and shows. A person had to wear a face mask to enter a store to buy supplies. Funerals could not be held indoors, and Brig conducted graveside services for those who died in the ward. One good neighbor, Simeon Saunders, lost his wife and four children in less than a year.

All of the family contracted the disease at different times. It was difficult to have enough healthy ones to take care of the sick ones. The neighbors helped each other, and many sought the Lord for recovery of their loved ones. It was a time of great humility for members of the ward and people throughout the country.

Telephones, although very primitive by today's standard, were a great blessing under those circumstances. There were several neighbors on each line. To make a call one would crank out so many longs and so many shorts. Eavesdropping kept everyone up on the latest news or gossip. In emergencies it was sometimes necessary to ask people to get off the line so a call could be put through. The long-winded neighbors were an unpopular lot. Sometimes jiggling the receiver would interrupt their talk and signal the line was needed. The real height of annoyance was to put the receiver (earpiece) up to the mouth of the horn (mouthpiece), which would cause a loud, prolonged shriek that would disturb a conversation. The three-minute regulation usually applied to the other people.

As the children became old enough, they were taught to work. Luann needed help in the house and Brig needed help with the chores. In the summer there was garden work, berry-picking, and canning. There was always wood to be brought in for the stoves. The children brought the cows up from the flat and helped with the milking. Gathering eggs in the spring and summer became an art, as the hens ran loose and laid their eggs anywhere.

Until about 1914, the livestock were watered at the ditch that ran in front of the house and down over the hill. In the winter, there were springs below the barns the animals could drink from. It was a long, steep climb back up the hill. For house use, water had to be hauled from Fall River in wood barrels in a wagon or sleigh. Uncle Tom dug a cistern that could be filled from the ditch in the fall. If it got empty in the winter, water was hauled from the river. In the winter, snow was brought in in a large copper boiler or metal tub and place on the cookstove to melt overnight. More snow



was added as it melted. Luann washed the family clothes with a tub, washboard, and ringer turned by child power. It was lovely water to bathe in or wash hair in, as it was soft. The babies were bathed first, then the next oldest, all in the same water. Then it was used to mop the floor.

About 1914, Brig had a well drilled 120 feet deep, mostly through solid lava rock. It was a great thrill to have water in our own backyard. The thrill wore off for the children, as they had to pump the water by hand for the cattle, horses, and pigs, and carry it in for the house. When the kids were in school, Brig pumped the water himself. No electricity was available then, and gasoline engines were expensive and not too reliable.

The year 1918 was a productive year for the farmers, with good yields and good prices. The war ended and the armistice was signed. The servicemen began to return home. Some had been wounded, gassed, shellshocked, and sick. They had made a great sacrifice in the great effort to keep peace in the world. Many adjustments were to be made in their lives.

On January 7, a third daughter, Tressa Isabella, was born. The weather was mild and farmers were plowing. Within twenty-four hours a raging blizzard moved in, and winter had come again.

The year of 1919 was very dry. Brig had bought a good number of hogs to feed out, and, although wheat was three dollars a bushel, he made good money on them. However, the crops were poor. In fact, a wagon box full of grain was all that was harvested, and that did not equal the seed planted.

A few years before, the Reclamation Service had developed the Minidoka Irrigation Project near Rupert. A dam across the Snake River created a reservoir, a power plant, and a diversion point to transfer water through large canals to the rich desert land. The longer growing season, the fertile land, and the abundance of irrigation water were attractive alternatives to the short seasons and fluctuating water supply of the Farnum area.

Brig had bought a new Ford car in 1918, his first. He and Tom took a trip to the Rupert country and looked it over as they had the Farnum country nineteen years before. They located established farms they could buy, and returned to Farnum, discussed their ideas with their wives, and decided to move to Rupert.

Brig sold the east eighty acres for eight thousand dollars to Asa Hawkes, whose farm cornered on the eighty. Brig and Tom held an auction sale and the accumulation of nineteen years were sold. The sale of the good horses was the most painful, especially the beautiful big stallion, Pedro. The furniture and household articles were shipped by freight car.

The farms they bought were equipped and included the horses and cows they would need. Dan and May Gibson also bought land near them. Dan was one of Brig's counselors in the bishopric. Brig was released from the bishopric, resigned from the school board, and resigned as president of the Conant Creek Canal Company. Luann was released from the Relief Society presidency. It was painful to leave when so much faith, labor, and love had been shared with so many wonderful pioneer people.

A surprise party was held at their home by the community, and a beautiful wall clock was presented to Brig and Luann as a going-away gift. Many farewell tears were shed that evening among young and old alike.

The move to Rupert was made early in November. The Murdochs had nice homes on well-leveled farms. Brig had forty acres; Tom had ten acres. They had rented their farms in Farnum, Brig to the Sparkman Brothers and Tom to the Brothertons.

The crops raised on their Rupert farms the season of 1919 had been sold at forty dollars a ton for hay, seven dol-

lars a hundredweight for potatoes, and over three dollars a bushel for wheat. Sugar beets sold well with sugar in the stores at forty dollars a hundredweight, flour was three dollars and fifty cents a fifty pound sack, and butter at seventy-five cents a pound.

The children got settled in school and enjoyed the luxury of riding to school in a horse-drawn schoolwagon. It was a little awesome to go to school with several rooms in it. Dallas made it through the first two weeks before getting in a fight. He lost, but gained a close friend.

On October 3, another daughter, Martha Lucile, was born. Luann had the responsibility of a new baby on top of the preparations for moving. Blanche was now fifteen and Dallas was twelve. They were helpful in many ways.

The day after school was out in late May, one of the children came down with smallpox. Of course, the family was quarantined and could not leave the farm. Brig and Luann were exempted to go to town for shopping. About the time one child got over it, another would get it, so the quarantine extended the entire summer until the week before school started. The family missed Primary and Sunday School in the Rupert Branch. The boys herded cattle on the big canal banks and did a lot of swimming and riding with other boys in the area.

The crops the first year were good, but the prices fell to seven dollars a ton for hay and less than a dollar a hundredweight for potatoes. Store prices were still high, however. Coal was very scarce, as transportation difficulties had many things out of order. The brothers had hoped to sell their farms at Farnum to finish paying for their farms in Rupert. Since the depression was settling in, it was not possible to sell their farms. Brig traded his equity in his farm on a smaller thirteen-acre farm called Green Acres. It was about three quarters of a mile southwest of Rupert along the railroad tracks. He also got possession of a garage building in Rupert that was rented out.

In the spring of 1921, the family moved to Green Acres, keeping their livestock and equipment. Brig worked outside the farm, and the older children worked out thinning beets and onions. Dallas worked for a farmer named Simms.

The depression deepened, and it became evident that they could not pay for their farms even though they had a lot invested in them. So they made plans to move back to their old homesteads they had taken up twenty-one years before.

While in Rupert, the Murdochs were active in the branch, which was in the Blaine Idaho Stake. Brig was called to serve in the Sunday School presidency in July 1920. On August 15, 1921, he was called to the stake high council.

On March 8, 1922, another son was born. He was named James Howard. The Howard was for Howard Hewitt, Dallas's friend that had beat him up in the first fight Dallas had at Rupert.

On April 21, 1922, the Murdochs left Rupert to return to Farnum. Luann, with the four girls and baby Howard, went to Burley to visit her Aunt Libby Lewis before returning to Farnum by train. Brig took Reed and Tom in the car with him. Aunt Sarah and their children were also going by train. Uncle Tom and Dallas went on a freight car with the livestock and furniture.

It took two days and two nights for the freight car to pull onto the siding at Ashton. As the train pulled, there was a long string of teams and wagons and sleighs lined up waiting for the car to be set. A large group of drivers waiting there looked familiar. They were those wonderful neighbors there to welcome the Murdochs back two and a half years after such a memorable farewell. The outfits were loaded with the belongings, and they made a caravan through the mud and snow to the old homestead where Brig and Luann had gone exactly nineteen years before.

What Uncle Tom and Dallas didn't know was that Brig and the boys had a car accident on the way, near Pocatello, that had put them all in the Linn Brothers Hospital in Pocatello with broken collarbones. Brig also had some broken ribs. They had very poor care in the hospital, no bones being set until the hospital could verify they would be paid. They took the car for payment.

Later in the day, Luann and the girls arrived at the farm from the train. There was hardly a full pane of glass in the house. They went on to Uncle Tom's home, where Aunt Sarah and the Relief Society had a warm supper. The Relief Society came and cleaned up the house. They brought food and made us as comfortable as possible. Brig and Reed were released from the hospital a short time later, but Tom was kept two more weeks before being released. He stayed another week at the Browsers before coming home. It was a great feeling to have all the family together again, although bruised, beaten, and discouraged.

Brig was unable to work for several weeks. We had three horses and limited equipment. As the farming season was at hand, Dallas plowed and got some of the work started. The neighbors turned out one day, and the entire farm was planted except for a little touching up with the drilling.

This outpouring of help and love from the neighbors was very encouraging and reassuring to Brig and Luann, who were back where they started from but now with eight children and broken health. The many favors and help the couple had extended to others through the years were now being returned.

Back in familiar surroundings, things gradually fit into place. The river, the flat, the bushy hillsides, the old neighbors, and the old friends all helped to bring back a continuity of purpose. Brig was soon back on the board of directors of the Conant Creek Canal Company, back on the school board, back in the bishopric as ward clerk. Luann was back in the Primary and Relief Society.

Blanche did not return to high school after coming back. The other children went back in school, Dallas in the seventh grade and the others according to age, attending the Farnum School. The older children helped take care of the younger ones. Family unity was stronger than ever.

Blanche began to socialize and was to get acquainted with young men in the area. She met Joseph Reiman from Green Timber, and, after a few months courtship, they were married on Christmas day, 1922, ten years after Rue and Mearl were married. They lived on a farm in Green Timber that Joe rented and later bought from his mother. Joe's family was from Germany and were faithful Lutherans. Joe was a steady, reliable fellow of good habits and was very thoughtful of Brig and Luann.

As each of the children graduated from the eighth grade at Farnum, they entered Ashton High School. It was five miles to Ashton, and people shared responsibilities in getting the children to and from high school. The children were active in school activities and all of them graduated from Ashton High School.

In 1923, Dallas entered high school after spending the summer working with Joe for the State Highway Department, building the road above Bear Gulch on the Yellowstone Highway. By this time Brig had recovered from his injuries, but was slightly handicapped in raising his right arm. He was able to take over much of the active work on the farm, assisted by his growing family. His good herd of Jersey cows was growing and was the principal source of income for the family needs. He was always a hard worker, going early and late. He always taught his boys to get their chores done before dark and be up with the sun.

In high school the boys took vocational agriculture, which increased their interest in the farm work.

Wallace Pierce, the fifth son, was born October 23, 1924. The next few years were fairly stable. The financial picture brightened a little at a time. Brig's health was slightly impaired from an inward goiter. He took medication for it to slow its development. It should have been removed, but he did not have the money to pay for it. However, he kept working hard.

On August 5, 1926, the fifth daughter, Katherine Mearl, was born. As the baby, she received lots of love and attention. There were now five girls and five boys, all living at home. During the bad part of the winter, the boys boarded in Ashton while going to high school, but returned on weekends and when the spring weather arrived.

Dallas graduated from high school in May, 1927. He had played football three years and was president of the A Club. He had worked at home most of the summers but helped Joe on the threshing crew each fall, getting into school after it started. He was the first of the family to graduate from high school.

During the late summer, fall, and winter of 1927, he worked for J.O. Duke, a boyhood friend of Brig's, who lived in Heber City but contracted with some Park City mines to supply mining groups. While the Yellowstone Branch was open, they shipped from West Yellowstone. When snow closed the line, they moved operations to Judkins on the Teton Basin Line, where they could ship all winter. They lived in a forest ranger's cabin in the Teton National Forest.

Brig had a severe illness from inflammatory rheumatism that kept him in bed for several weeks. He suffered intensely whenever he had to be turned or lifted. Dallas was called home from Judkins in mid-March. He could lift his dad while sheets were being changed and help him carefully to more comfortable positions. The younger boys were in high school, and Dallas had not had the money to enter college the fall before. Dallas helped with the planting and farm work during the summer and prepared to enter the University of Idaho the fall of 1928.

Brig gradually recovered and by early summer was able to return to most of his usual work. Dallas had planted certified seed potatoes during the spring that were harvested by the family after he left for Moscow. He had received a Union Pacific scholarship a year after he graduated that provided a round-trip train fare and two hundred dollars for the first year at Moscow.

As Dallas left for Moscow on money borrowed from a neighbor, Dave Rogers, Luann told Dallas they were sorry they could not help him financially, that all they had to offer was their faith and prayers. Little did she know how much and how often that commitment meant more to him than money as the next five years passed by. He completed the first year and returned home for the summer.

Reed graduated from high school in May, 1929, and he and Dallas worked out an agreement that Reed would go to the University of Idaho one year while Dallas would stay home and help keep him in school. Dallas would go the next year. That way they could be around to help Dad and the family and whichever brother was in school.

Reed was very active at the University. He was in the men's glee club, men's quartet, the Intercollegiate Knights, and other activities. He returned home at mid-year, and Dallas returned to Moscow for the second semester. Reed went to work and on November 3, 1931, married Ruth Grover, a very lovely and talented girl from St. Anthony. He first worked for Charles Burrel in his store.

Thomas Hammon graduated from high school, farmed with Dad a year, and married Alta Hillam, who was his high school sweetheart, in the Salt Lake Temple on October 5, 1932. Her father was Abraham Hillam, stake patriarch. Tom went to work at the City Market in Ashton. He eventually became manager and finally bought the store.

Laura Jean was married January 11, 1933, to Charles Angus Blanchard of Chester, in the Salt Lake Temple. His father was an early settler in the area. They settled in his parent's home at Chester and bought the home farm, where they lived throughout their married life. They are the parents of four girls and two boys.

During the winter of 1931-32, Brig was very sick. In early February, he began to worry about the operation of the farm in the spring. The older boys were working away from home, and the younger boys were in school and too young to do the farming. Dallas was in his junior year at the university. He was asked if he could leave school early enough to come home and help with the farming. His instructors said yes, but he would have to complete all eighteen credit hours before he could leave six weeks early. He did, and arrived home about the first of May, 1932.

Dad gradually recovered to where he could do some of the work. His goiter was enlarging and overtaking his heart. Finally, Dr. H. Ray Hatch, a boyhood friend, then in Idaho Falls, told him that he might not survive an operation and that he wouldn't survive without it. Finally on June 12, 1933, he was operated on in the Idaho Falls LDS Hospital by Dr. Hatch. The same day, Dallas graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. degree in agricultural education. The faith and prayers and fasting of the family and friends were rewarded, and Dad was on his way to a slow but gradual recovery.

For several years during the depression, farm prices were very low. In addition to that a frost, hail, wind, or drought occurred each summer to reduce or destroy the crops and sap the spirit.

The dairy cows provided the family with food and bare necessities. The children worked on the farm and got other jobs when they could. There was no money for missions or college. The milk from the Jerseys was separated and the cream churned into butter that Luann sold to the stores in Ashton. It never went over the counter, but was always reserved for special customers. The butter wrappers carried the name of Riverview Farm, and Luann made sure every package had full weight and top quality. Regardless of how small the amount of money, the tithing came out first. This principle was taught to all the children as they earned money.

Through all the years of hard work, crop failures, depression, and sickness Mother took each challenge in stride, never complaining, always attentive to Dad's and the children's needs. She loved her flowers, and despite the competition from kids, chickens, pigs, and horses in the yard, she always had some nice flowers. She helped Dad with his work as ward clerk. She was constantly teaching the principles of the gospel by example and by word.

About 1930, Dad bought a new Model A Ford with some of the money from the seed potatoes. This helped the mobility of the family in getting to church, to work, and to school. It helped Uncle Tom and Aunt Sarah, as they did not own a car.

During their years at Farnum, Tom and Brig went to Utah from time to time for funerals, for general conference, and for family reunions. Occasionally their wives went with them. A car was a great help on those occasions.

On one trip to Utah, Brig and Tom stopped at a Blackfoot cafe to eat. As they came out, a short heavysset Indian was standing outside. He had a tummy overhang about like Uncle Tom's. Always the joker, Uncle Tom poked the Indian in the tummy with his thumb and laughed, pointing at his own tummy, and said, "Heap big tummy." The Indian pulled out a long hunting knife, held the point of it on Tom's tummy, and then said, "Heap big tummy yourself." Then as Tom backed off in alarm, the Indian laughed, "Ha, ha."



The occasional visits of the relatives from Utah were always high points for them. Mother's relatives used to visit also. In the summers, the good fishing in Fall River and nearby creeks was enjoyed. A trip to Utah always meant gifts for the kids or fresh fruit when the folks returned. The conversations about the relatives and what they were doing kept the family interests and activities alive between the Utah and Idaho Murdochs.

Dallas worked with Joe Reiman on the new Cave Falls Road the summer of 1933 until late in August when he was asked to teach vocational agriculture at Midway High School west of Rigby. During the year, he met Winona Lee, a graduate nurse, who was a sister to one of his college friends, Eldred Lee. She was the nurse for Alta when her first son, Ronald, was born. He died a short time after birth. Dallas and Winona dated occasionally through the winter and spring and were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 6, 1934. Tom and Alta went with them. They lived at Lewisville. During the school term of 1934-35, Tressa and Martha lived with them and attended Midway High School.

That summer, Dallas took a teaching job at Emmett, Idaho, and the girls attended Emmett High School, where Tressa graduated.

On September 5, 1936, Martha married Ralph Godfrey, a fellow she met at Emmett. She did not finish high school.

The girls had been good to help with the chores and farmwork when they were home, but with the older boys gone, it was difficult to carry on the farm work due to Dad's failing health, so they had been very welcome to stay with Dallas and Winona.

The fall of 1938, Brig and Luann sold the farm to Angus and Jean. They bought a house on three lots across from their son Tom's home in Ashton. Howard and Wallace were left at the farm to care for the cows until they could be moved to their new home. A severe blizzard developed lasting several days. It was very cold the days the cows were moved. They brought their chickens with them. A kindly neighbor brought over some scraps one evening and fed them to the chickens. The next morning sixty hens were dead from eating spoiled corn in the scraps.

Brig sold the milk as whole milk to the stores, restaurants, and homes, and developed a good market. It was lots of work to wash the equipment, bottle the milk, and deliver it, but it was something they could handle. Howard and Wallace were in high school and were good to help after school. Both boys were in the school band. Katie was in the glee club and school plays.

Howard worked for Niels Knutson in the grocery store, and Wallace and Katie worked for the City Drug. The family was settled comfortably and enjoyed electricity and running water and indoor bathroom for the first time.

On November 10, 1938, the oldest son of Dallas and Winona was killed by a truck on the main street of Ucon, where Dallas was teaching. He was buried in the Grant Cemetery.

Blanche and Joe and their four children moved to Ashton the following year so they could attend school in the winter. Joe continued to run their 160-acre farm, which was dry farmed. He developed a business wiring houses and buildings when the REA brought electricity to the rural areas in 1938. Many places needed wiring, and he had a good business until he retired.

The United States entered World War II when Japan executed a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Howard was the first to go. He enlisted in the Mormon Battalion in June, 1942, but was turned down due to being color blind. In September he was accepted into the Army Air Corps and received his basic training in Nevada. He was sent overseas and saw active duty during the invasion

of France and the following campaigns until the war was over in Europe. He was in the service nearly four years. He married Grace Hillam June 4, 1946, in the Idaho Falls Temple.

When Wallace finished high school, he went to enlist in the Air Corps, but was also turned down because of color blindness. However, he was accepted by the Army in January 1943, and was discharged on May 9, 1946. Shortly after his discharge, he married Pauline Clements on May 11, 1946. They attended Utah State University at Logan, Utah, and both received a B.S. degree, Wallace in Etomology; later Wallace earned his master's degree, and still later his Ph.D. degree from the University of Utah.

Katie's sweetheart Berny Brower was killed in Okinawa twenty days before the war ended.

Tressa married Clyde Garret on January 4, 1938, in the Salt Lake Temple. Clyde was later called into the service and was stationed at New Orleans. They had three children at the time.

Ralph Godfrey, Martha's husband, was in the Navy on the carrier Hancock. It was bombed, and over five hundred men were killed. He participated in the bombing of Tokyo and several other naval actions.

Both sons of Blanche and Joe (Kay and Lynn) were in the service. Both of their daughter's husbands wer also in the service. It was a great relief when all of the young men returned safely at the end of the war. Wallace moved up through the ranks to captain, then to lieutenant colonel, and had tours of duty in Washington, D.C., Korea, Japan, and Panama. He retired after twenty years of service. Their four sons accompanied Wallace and Pauline in the different areas, except Korea.

Katie married Glade Lyon on December 1, 1946. He lived in Ashton and attended Ricks College. They were sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple March 23, 1962. Their four children are Jack, Suzanne, Robin, and Kathy.

With the boys in the service and his health worsening, Dad sold the cows. That relieved Mother of the dairy work, and gave her more time to care for Dad, who needed care as his heart was in poor condition. The last two years of his life were a period of suffering. Each spell of sickness left him a little weaker. Since he needed regular attention, it was necessary to relieve Mother at times.

Blanche, Reed, Tom, Howard, and Katie all lived in Ashton or nearby. Jean lived in Chester and Tressa lived at St. Anthony, so the children were nearby to help when needed. Dad was very patient and uncomplaining throughout his life and especially during his sickness and periods of discouragement. He was very appreciative of the thoughtfulness of his neighbors and children.

Dad died the evening of May 13, 1947, at the age of seventy-six. His passing brought sadness to many people, but gladness to know that his mortal suffering had ended.

All ten of their sons and daughters and their husbands and wives and children were present at his funeral. A telephone strike was on when Brig died, and many relatives could not be contacted. It was the largest funeral ever held in Ashton and was in the new Ashton Ward chapel. His son Tom was the bishop during the planning and building of the church.

Brig was buried in the Pineview Cemetery at Ashton, where Uncle Tom, Hans Nielson, and other pioneer friends would rest nearby. He looked forward to again being with his parents, wife Blanche, son Rue, and loved ones who had left before him.

Mother missed Dad very much. She was grateful for their many years together. She always honored him as her husband, a father, a priesthood bearer, and a servant of the Lord. She had always supported his decisions and helped him in his various callings.

She was always busy. Even when sitting and visiting, her hands were busy crocheting and embroidering. She liked to read and was well grounded in the scriptures. During the year, she was working on Christmas presents for each child and grandchild. She now had time for her flowers, both inside the house and outside in the spring and summer.

Her health was not good, but she never complained. Her arthritis gradually got worse, affecting her hands and hip. She still worked in her garden and flowers.

She spent two winters in California with her sister Laura and her husband. Laura and Melvin bought a house near Mother's and lived there for several years. Her home was always the gathering place for her children and grandchildren, especially on Mother's Day, other holidays, and any Sunday. She tried to be of help to all her children when needed. She was especially appreciated when she was with Dallas and his six children in March, 1953, when his wife Winona died from a blood clot following an appendicitis operation.

Mother spent many hours on genealogy work for both the Murdoch and Hammon families. One of her happiest times of the year was the family reunions. Every third year the Murdoch reunion was held in Idaho near Ashton, and the next two years in Utah in the Heber area. Mother, Aunt Sarah, and Cousin Bessie Dawson were the regulars from Idaho, usually accompanied by other members of their family. The Hammon reunions were held in Menan.

In December, 1952, Mother had a gall bladder operation, which improved her health. She attended Church services and Relief Society very faithfully throughout her life. When the children were small she used to walk to Primary with them if the horses were working in the field. It was 2½ miles, one way. As the children grew up, Mother and Dad were very appreciative of their response to the teachings of the gospel. It was lived in the home and taught by example. During some periods of time, some of the children seemed to stray as they reached adulthood, but the folks never lost faith that each child would be worthy to be married in the temple. As this record is brought to a close (1981), all but one of the ten children have received their endowments.

Mother was very independent and would rather help than be helped. Despite her poor health and suffering, she kept smiling. Finally, when she could no longer care for herself, she went to Blanche's home, where she received the warm love and care that Blanche is special for. The other sons and daughters were also very close to Mother and were available when needed.

Mother passed away June 30, 1962, after being in and out of the Ashton Memorial Hospital with a severe illness. She had a lovely funeral, attended by all her children, and many relatives and friends, in the Ashton Ward. She had been alone for fifteen years, patient, uncomplaining, always striving to make others happy. She was buried beside Dad in the Ashton Pineview Cemetery. The following poem, written by Winifred Kirkham, a dear friend, was read by Della Davis, a niece she read Mother's obituary. It was written on the morning Mother passed away.

"Aunt Luannie, when I heard of your passing, I walked out into my flower garden; somehow you seemed to be very near, for all around me were blooms from the starts of flowers you have given me. I looked at the forget-me-nots, with their tiny blooms facing toward the sun, and I thought of Proverbs 31:31 'Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.'

"I came in the house and wrote this verse especially for you:

Aunt Luannie: I know that heaven has a garden now,  
 Because you would not stay  
 If there weren't tulip bulbs to plant  
 And tend and give away.  
 The yard around your little house  
 Ran golden in the sun,  
 And there you labored in your garden  
 From early morn 'til day was done.  
 Your hollyhock's fluffed crimson skirts  
 Against your house's gray  
 And the beauty and fragrance of your lillies  
 Were talked of blocks away.  
 You've raised your children as your flowers,  
 To grow and face the sun  
 And to choose their path of life  
 To be the righteous one.  
 Now as I tend and watch my flowers bloom  
 Which to me will be second to none,  
 I'll feel you are walking beside me  
 To see how it is done.

As the family and friends have visited the Ashton Cemetery each Memorial Day, it has been easy to locate Dad and Mother's grave from a distance by the numerous bouquets and floral offerings placed around the graves--a loving tribute to a wonderful couple who had served so many so well.

Lack of space and time make it necessary to omit many many items that would be of interest to Dad's and his wives posterity. I hope this history will become the thread that will be used by all the family to help weave the final pattern we desire as we all move into eternity.

Written by Brigham Dallas Murdoch, son,  
 from the personal histories of  
 Brigham and Luann Murdoch, and from  
 genealogy records compiled by Tressa  
 Murdoch Garrett and Ruby Murdoch  
 Hooper.

OCT . 60



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Lee, Mearl Garrett Murdoch Smith, Blanche  
 Murdoch Reiman, Martha Louannie Hammon Murdoch





HOWARD, WALLACE AND KATHERINE  
MURDOCH



REED, TOM, AND JEAN MURDOCH

BRIGHAM MURDOCH

HOME-----

ASHTON, IDAHO



TRESSA AND MARTHA MURDOCH



BACK-TRESSA, BLANCHE & JEAN MURDOCH  
FRONT-MARTHA MURDOCH







BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Brigham Dallas Murdoch, Reed Chase Murdoch, Thomas Hammom Murdoch, James Howard Murdoch, and Wallace Pierce Murdoch. FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Blanche Priscilla M. Reiman, Laura Jean M. Blanchard, Tressa Isabell M. Garrett, Martha Lucille M. Godfrey Reed, Katherine Mearl M. Lyon.



BACK ROW L. TO R.: B. Dallas & Agnes S. Murdoch, Ruth G. & Reed C. Murdoch, Alta H. & Thomas H. Murdoch, J. Howard & L. Grace H. Murdoch, Pauline C. & Wallace P. Murdoch. Front Row L. To R.: Clyde R. & Tressa M. Garrett, C. Angus & L. Jean M. Blanchard, Blanche M. Reiman, Martha M. Reed, Katherine (Katie) M. & Glade M. Lyon.

Composite Record of the Brigham Murdoch Family

Wife: Blanche Alexander	Name of Grandchildren and Spouse	No. of Great- grandchildren	No. of Great-great grandchildren	No. of Missionaries
Rue & Mearl Murdoch	Elaine & Claude Lee	3	7-7-6	5
	Guy & Faye Tanner	6	5-2-3	3
	Murray & Zelda Glover	-	-	-
Wife: Luann Hammon				
Blanche & Joseph Reiman	Blanche & Marvin Tighe	5	9	2
	Helen & John Marsden	5	9	1
	Lynn & Anola Bird	8	1	1
	Kay & Marjean	3	6	-
B. Dallas & Winona Lee Murdoch	Ronald Lee (deceased)	-	-	-
	Helen & Ronald Hall	12	-	4
	Dallas & Joan Hale	5	-	2
	Thomas & Sharon Wells	6	-	1
	Ann Marie & Allan Matesen	2	1	-
	Ruth & Alan Schulz	2	-	-
	John & Marie Brady	5	-	1
Agnes Simonsen	Mary Lou & Wayne Versey	1	-	1
	Luann Agnes & Ross W. Dodds	-	-	1
Reed & Ruth Grover Murdoch	DeLynn & Joyce Housley	5	5	1
	Sharon & Gene Gerger	5	1	-
	Thomas A. (deceased) & Sandra Carter	1	-	-
	Gerrienne & Kalen Miskin	6	-	-
Thomas & Alta William Murdoch	Ronald Thomas (deceased)	-	-	-
	Darrell & Marva Anglesey	8	-	1
	Mary & Weldon Reynolds	2	-	-
	Judith & William Atchley	6	2	1
	Tamara & Sam K. Cikaitoga	3	-	-
Jean & Angus Blanchard	Dale & Rulene Parkinson	4	-	1
	Barbara & C. Richard Bateman	3	-	1
	Don & Linda Wollard	4	-	1
	Virginia & Stanley Smith	2	-	2
	JoAnne & Randall Gardner	2	-	-
	Marlene & Leonard	1	-	-
Tressa & Clyde Garrett	Geraldine & Wendell Merrill	5	1	3
	Clydene & Dennis Womack	3	-	1
	Sandra & Irvin Schmitt	5	-	-
	Pamela & J. Anthony Winkle	3	-	-
	Ivana & Leland Nebeker	3	-	1
	Brigham & Melanie Brower	1	-	-
Martha & Ralph Godfrey	Ralph & Sharon Whitteker	2	-	-
	James	-	-	-
	John	-	-	-
Howard & Grace Hillam Murdoch	Gwen & Fred Freeman	4	-	1
	Patricia & Ronnie Wodskow	6	-	1
	Bryan & Deborah Stolworthy	3	-	1
	Molly & Karl Cook	3	-	-
	Richard &	-	-	1
	Larae & Gary W. Mackay	-	-	-
	Marylyn	-	-	-
	Bradley	-	-	-
Wallace & Pauline Clement Murdoch	Wallace, Jr. & Sandy Satio	-	-	-
	Robert Alan	-	-	-
	Jon Paul	-	-	-
	Kenneth Scott	-	-	-
Katherine & Glade Lyon	Jack & Anne Williams	4	-	-
	Suzanne & Larry Hamilton	2	-	-
	Robin & Verl Miller	2	-	-
	Kathy	-	-	-
11 children	56 grandchildren	161 great-grand- children	65 g.-g.-grand- children	41 missionaries
as of 1981				